



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX (916) 654-9780

February 28, 1997

Stephen K. Hall, Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies
910 K Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Steve:

Thank you for forwarding the document entitled *A Proposal for an Environmental Water Best Management Practices Program*. Efficient use of water diverted from the Bay-Delta system for environmental purposes is very important, and it is a central part of the development of our water use efficiency program component. As you state, some aspects of environmental water use are not appropriate for consideration in the context of water use efficiency. Accordingly, we will develop recommendations related to flow and the aquatic environment with input from the BDAC Ecosystem Work Group, agency scientists, stakeholders, and others. In so doing, we must resolve many of the issues addressed in the proposal.

Currently three CALFED agencies are working to develop Best Management Practices for environmental diversions, as described in the water use efficiency presentation at the last BDAC meeting. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Fish and Game are working with the Grassland Irrigation District to develop an Interagency Coordinated Program for efficient use of water on refuges and wildlife areas. This effort will include extensive opportunities for stakeholder input, and is scheduled to produce draft products this fall. I will schedule a specific presentation on this program for a future BDAC meeting.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc: Joel Miller, USFWS

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service